

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in reply to the Decision on Appeal dated July 23, 2003, within the two-month period for response. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the subject Decision, the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences upheld the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of claims 1-4, 7-12, 15-18, 20, 22-25, and 39 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,649,114 to Deaton et al. Claims 5-6, 13-14, 19, 21 and 26, however, were previously found to be directed to allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

Applicants have now canceled claims 5, 10, 13, 19, 26 and 39 without prejudice and amended claims 1, 6, 9, 11, 14-15, 17, 21 and 23 such that all pending claims now recite subject matter previously found allowable by the Examiner. In particular, independent claims 1, 9, 17 and 23 were amended to incorporate the subject matter of objected-to claims 5, 13, 19 and 26, respectively, and objected-to claim 21 was amended to independent form. Consistent with these amendments, claims 5, 10, 13, 19, and 26 were canceled, and claims 6, 11, and 14-15 were amended to correct their respective dependencies.

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is being added by the above amendments, as the amendments are fully supported in the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed. Moreover, all claims now recite subject matter already found to be allowable by the Examiner, and as such, entrance of the amendments to the claims after final is appropriate.

As a final matter, Applicants are mailing on even date herewith a supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, listing art originally cited in a divisional application that claims priority on the instant application, U.S. Serial No. 09/707,514, filed November 7, 2000. Consideration of the art cited is respectfully requested.

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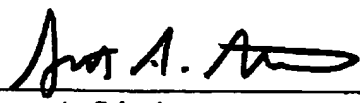
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In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the foregoing, or which might otherwise further this case onto allowance, the Examiner may contact the undersigned at (513) 241-2324. Moreover, if any other charges or credits are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

23 SEP 2003

Date


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